

Correction.—Supporters of separate schools in Upper Canada are exempted from school rates of every description, except in the single case of school buildings commenced before their separation from the public schools. The latter part of the statement is also a misrepresentation of the school law of Lower Canada. The act, the 26th section of which is referred to as authority for this statement, was passed in June, 1846, and the provision in question applies exclusively to separate schools that were then in operation—not to any that have been established since, or that may be established. The words of the act are, “Provided always, that whenever the majority of the children attending any school now in operation, and the school house shall belong to or be occupied by such dissentients, the said school house shall continue to be occupied by them as long as the number of children taught in such school shall amount to the number required by this act, to form a school district.” Thus this provision applies only to school houses which were built under former school acts, and before 1846, and which at that time belonged to dissentients or were occupied by them. The law, therefore, simply secured to them what was their own at the time of passing it, but that only so long as they should have twenty children between the ages of 5 and 16 years in the school district, with at least fifteen of them attending the school; but it has no application to any school house which has been built since 1846. Under analogous circumstances, all school houses now built or to be built in Upper Canada, would continue, as a matter of course, in the hands of the occupiers of them. The Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada, in his circular to school commissioners, dated 15th June, 1846, refers to the point in question, as follows: “It will be observed, however, that the 21st clause of the act, 9 Vic. ch. 27, placing at the disposition of school commissioners all the lands and school houses acquired, given to, or erected under the authority of former education acts, or of the present act, gives no power or right to the trustees of dissentient schools to demand the use or possession of the like property, unless they were in possession of the same at the time of the passing of this act.” [1846.]

5th Statement.—“Separate school trustees cannot be less than twenty-one in Toronto; separate school trustees are only six in Quebec and Montreal—larger cities than Toronto.”

Correction.—There have been fourteen trustees of the public schools in Toronto; there will be twenty the current year.* The act 14 & 15 Vic. ch. 111, leaves it discretionary with the parties supporting separate schools, to have two or more wards of any city united into one, and thus reduce the number of the trustees to three, if they please.

6th Statement.—“In Upper Canada, the separate school trustees cannot exercise the same powers as common school trustees; in Lower Canada, separate school trustees have all the same powers as common school trustees.”

Correction.—The 19th section of the Upper Canada School Act, 13 & 14 Vic. ch. 48, provides expressly that “each separate school shall go into operation at the

* This was written in anticipation of the passage of the clause in the Grammar and Common School Bill providing for the union of the two boards of trustees in each city, town or village in Upper Canada.

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